

WI-439  
Daisy M. Bell Tenant House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1900

One of several two-and-a-half story cross-gabled frame dwellings to define the west side neighborhood formerly known as "California," the Daisy M. Bell tenant house is dated around the turn of the twentieth century after her purchase of the lot in December 1899. The transfer of the Second Street and Hill Street parcel included with many other tracts, but this specific property was described as "...all that vacant lot of land lying in that part of the said town of Salisbury known as California, opposite of the lot known as the Thomas B. Jones lot."

Exterior architectural details indicate the house was built shortly thereafter. Daisy M. Bell, who with her attorney husband George Bell, resided on "Bells Lane" as indicated in the 1907 Salisbury City Directory. Daisy M. Bell sold the house and lot in 1917 to Robert W. Jones, in whose family the property remained until the mid 1950s.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Daisy M. Bell Tenant House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-439

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-439

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Daisy M. Bell Tenant House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 138 Second Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard C. Insley, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 1026 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21803

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 106, P. 431  
liber 893

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 431

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-439

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Daisy M. Bell tenant house is located at 138 Second Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1900, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched cross-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, one-room plan kitchen wing.

The southeast (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The center entrance is filled with a replacement front door. Sheltering the first floor is a cross-gabled front porch supported by Tuscan columns. The second floor is lighted by three single-pane sash windows, and the cross gable is pierced by a small four-pane window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave. Interior brick stove chimneys, finished with corbelled caps, flank the center hall.

The gable ends are essentially alike with single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Four-pane windows light the attic. The edge of the roof is defined by an extended eave with short returns at the base of the roof.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, one room plan kitchen wing that is extended on its south side by a shed roofed porch. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick stove chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-439

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

One of several two-and-a-half story cross-gabled frame dwellings to define the west side neighborhood formerly known as "California," the Daisy M. Bell tenant house is dated around the turn of the twentieth century after her purchase of the lot in December 1899.<sup>1</sup> The transfer of the Second Street and Hill Street parcel included with many other tracts, but this specific property was described as "...all that vacant lot of land lying in that part of the said town of Salisbury known as California, opposite of the lot known as the Thomas B. Jones lot."

Exterior architectural details indicate the house was built shortly thereafter. Daisy M. Bell, who with her attorney husband George Bell, resided on "Bells Lane" as indicated in the 1907 Salisbury City Directory.<sup>2</sup> Daisy M. Bell sold the house and lot in 1917 to Robert W. Jones, in whose family the property remained until the mid 1950s.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 28/89, 29 December 1899.

<sup>2</sup> Salisbury, Maryland City Directory, 1907, Family Tree Bookshop, 1998, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, JWTS 400/6, 15 November 1955; JWTS 399/498, 15 July 1955.

Survey No. WI-439

WI-439  
Daisy M. Bell Tenant House  
138 Second Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1216

893/431                      Kathryn E. Mitchell

to

2/1/1978                      Richard C. Insley, Jr.  
Conveyed unto Watson D. Mitchell and Robert W.  
Mitchell by Item Second of the two following deeds:  
1. from Larrie S. Jones, et al., 7/15/1955, JWTS 399/498  
2. from Burnes P. Jones, widow, 11/15/1955, JWTS 400/6

the said Watson D. Mitchell having departed this life  
intestate and the above described properties having  
descended unto Robert W. Mitchell, his son and sole heir

JCK 103/432                      Daisy M. Bell

to

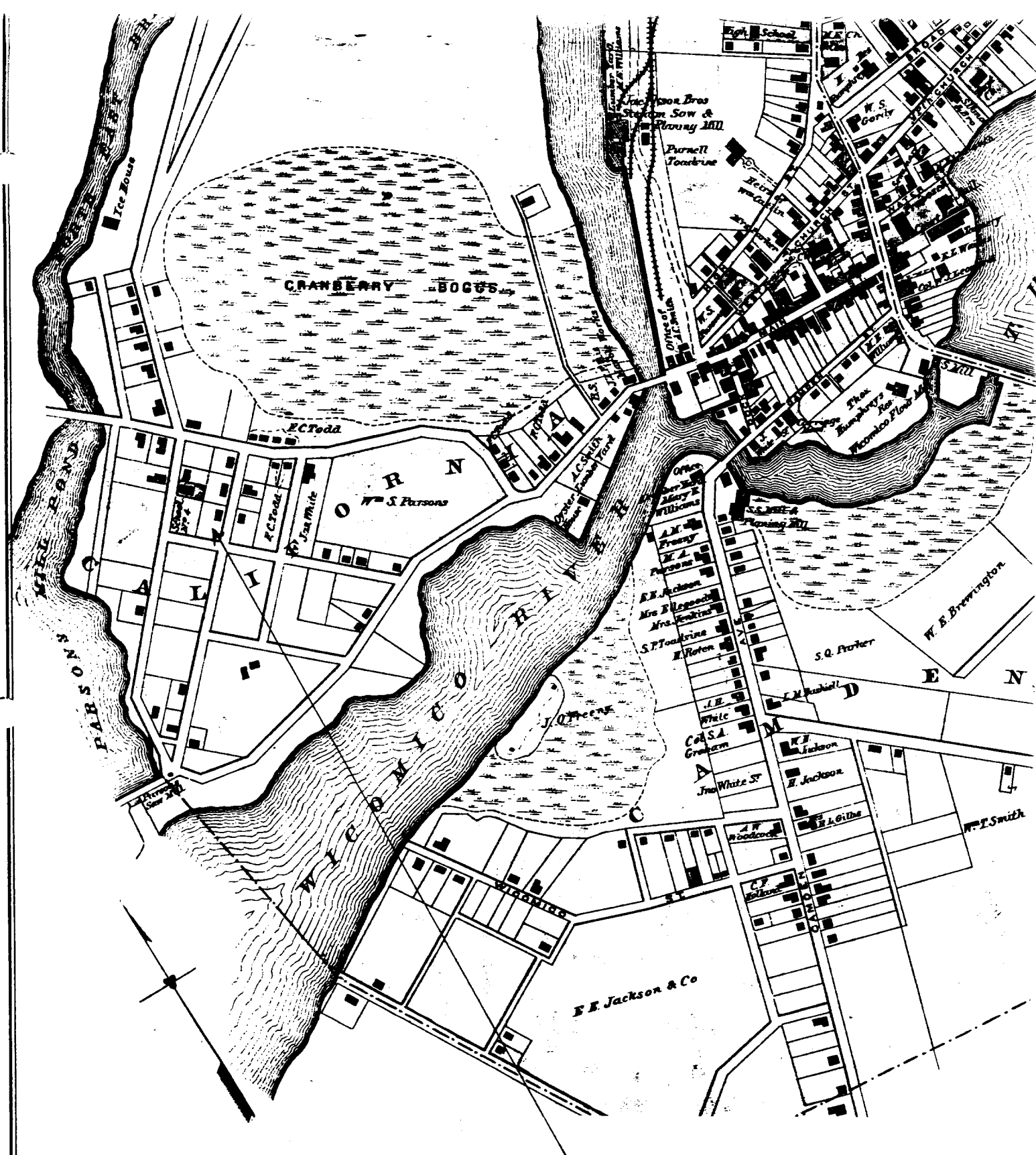
3/8/1917                      Robert W. Jones

JTT 28/89                      Sallie M. Jackson, City of Philadelphia

to

12/29/1899                      Daisy M. Bell  
\$6,000  
many parcels of land including

...also all that vacant lot of land lying in that part of the said  
town of Salisbury known as California, opposite of the lot  
known as the Thomas B. Jones lot, and bounded on the north  
by Third Street, on the South by Second Street, on the west by  
Hill Street, and on the east by the lot of William Kelly...



WI-439

Daisy M. Bell Tenant House

Salisbury, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

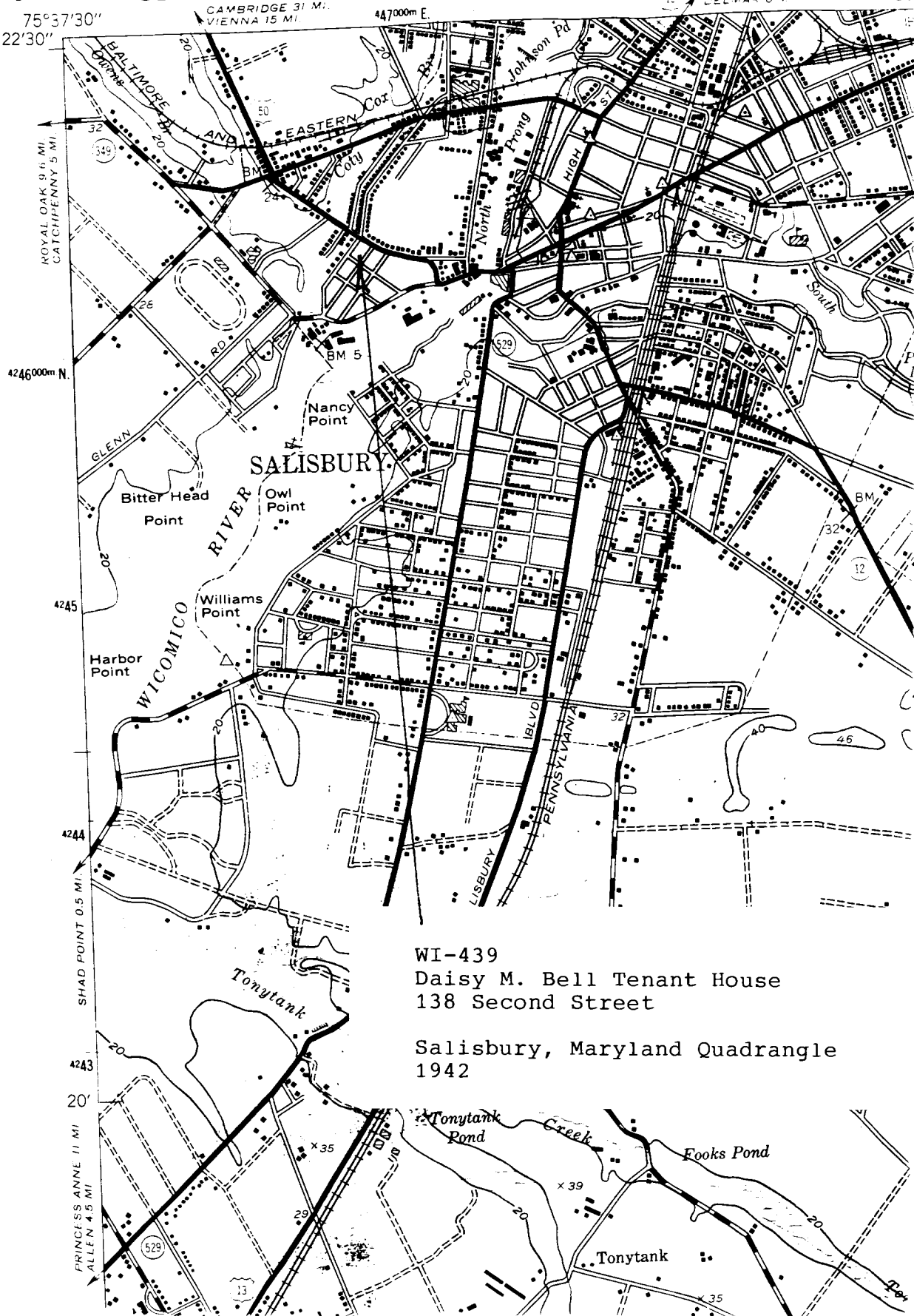
5860 L NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E.

LAUREL 15 MI.  
DELMAR 6 MI.



WI-439

Daisy M. Bell Tenant House  
138 Second Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



184